Naval Facilities Engineering Command

Abstract of an Accident

94-3

ACCIDENT TYPE: ELECTRICAL SHOCK
INJURY: HIGH VOLTAGE BURN
EQUIPMENT: GOVERNMENT OWNED HIGH VOLTAGE TRANSFORMER
SAFETY EQUIPMENT: LINEMEN GLOVES NOT WORN

DESCRIPTION OF THE ACCIDENT:

A civilian contractor employee was electrically shocked and burned over 30 percent of his body as he was visually inspecting a 40KV transformer. Upon opening the door to the transformer, the employee propped the door open with his buttocks (there was no latch to secure the door in open position), the wind (13-18.5 knots) caught the door (as though a sail) and knocked the employee off balance, causing employee to come in contact with an energized electrical circuit.

DIRECT CAUSE:

- Failure to secure door to transformer against high wind.

CONTRIBUTING CAUSES:

- No operating procedures established for troubleshooting.
- Employee placed his body in a compromising position.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE) not worn.

LESSONS LEARNED:

- Hazard analyses of every job is critical. Seemingly routine low hazard jobs can result in serious injury.
- Transformer doors must have capability to lock in open position.
- Always be sure electricity to transformer is secured before trying to find cause of malfunction.
- Ensure PPE is readily available.

Your **SAFETY** contact is...